

Gunmen assassinate retired Benue Customary Appeal Court President



•Decomposing body discovered in Makurdi residence**By Peter Duru, Makurdi**

The decomposing body of a retired President of the Benue State Customary Court of Appeal, Justice Margaret Igbeta, has been found at her private residence in Makurdi, the Benue state capital.

It was gathered that the remains of the retired jurist which was already in a bad state were discovered Thursday evening in a pool of blood in her home located at No. 1, Wantor Kwange Street, Opposite College of Medicine, Benue State University, BSU, Makurdi.

According to a police source who spoke on condition of anonymity, the retired jurist must have been murdered by yet-to-be identified persons.

He also noted that the state of her remains was indicative of the fact that she must have been killed days before her corpse was discovered on Thursday.

The source disclosed that the police was alerted of the development by the young son of the deceased and they wasted no time in visiting the scene and also ensured the evacuation of the lifeless body of the jurist.

He said: "It's true that Justice Igbeta has been murdered. Yesterday, Thursday, August 24, 2023, her lifeless body was discovered in her house but the corpse was not looking too okay again.

"What that meant was that it couldn't have happened that yesterday, Thursday, may be a day or so before it was discovered and reported to the police."

He assured that the police was already investigating the matter to unravel the masterminds of the murder.

It was also gathered that before her demise, the 73-year-old jurist who retired in October 17, 2015 was said to be living a private life and was hardly seen in public.

Acclaimed to be the first female lawyer of Benue origin, Justice Igbeta was in 2019 enmeshed in alleged N800 million proxy bank account controversy.

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The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, had in September of that year dragged her before an Abuja High Court over a proxy bank account she allegedly operated in the name of her housemaid which had a fixed deposit of over N800 million.

The anti-graft agency sought an interim injunction of the court for the forfeiture of the said fund which it claimed was obtained through fraudulent activities in the course of doing her job.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Superintendent, SP, Catherine Anene said she was yet to receive full details of the incident.